

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06451 300759Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /090 W
-----109421 300807Z /12

P R 300618Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8005
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6451

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS
SUBJ: ABBA EBAN'S VIEWS ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

SUMMARY: ABBA EBAN RETURNED FROM HIS SWING AROUND THE UNITED STATES GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR CONVENING A GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE HAS RECOMMENDED A MORATORIUM ON NEW "SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY" IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, BUT DOUBTS THAT BEGIN WILL ACCEPT HIS VIEWS. HE CONFIRMS THAT THE STATE OF UNRAVELING IN THE LABOR PARTY CONTINUES APACE AND ADMITS THAT BEGIN CONTINUES TO EASILY OUT-MANEUVER THE OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. ABBA EBAN STOPPED BY FOR A DRINK SATURDAY AFTERNOON TO SHARE IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT "INFORMATION MISSION" TO THE U.S., AND TO EXCHANGE THOUGHTS ABOUT CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. MUCH OF OUR CON-
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VERSATION WAS HISTORICAL, WITH EBAN RECOUNTING FOR ME HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF THE ATMOSPHERE AT GENEVA DURING THE 1973 GENEVA CONFERENCE SESSIONS AND SOME OF THE POLITICAL FACTORS WHICH UNFORTUNATELY FROZE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WITH JORDAN IN THE EARLY SUMMER OF 1974.

2. EBAN FOUND VERY WIDESPREAD SUPPORT IN THE U.S. FOR

ISRAEL'S POSITION ON THE PLO. HE ACKNOWLEDGES BEGIN'S SUCCESS IN PARLAYING ALMOST UNIVERSAL ISRAELI REJECTION OF THE PLO INTO THE APPEARANCE OF A BROADER POLITICAL CONSENSUS ON BEGIN'S OVERALL VIEWS. THIS MAY BE CLARIFIED IN THE FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE SCHEDULED IN THE KNESSET UPON BEGIN'S RETURN FROM ROMANIA BUT EBAN OBVIOUSLY DOUBTS THAT THE OPPOSITION WILL BE VERY EFFECTIVE IN ITS EFFORTS TO DIFFERENTIATE BEGIN'S VIEWS FROM ITS OWN.

3. EBAN SAID HE HAS SUBMITTED A MEMORANDUM TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND TO DAYAN WHICH STRESSES TWO POINTS: (A) THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING FURTHER PROVOCATION TO THE U.S. BY NEW SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AND (B) THE NEED FOR DAYAN TO GO TO WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN GREAT SPECIFICS SOME SUBSTANTIVE OPTIONS FOR THE WEST BANK. EBAN SAID HE UNDERSTANDS FROM DAYAN THAT THIS IS INDEED HIS INTENTION, AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS BUSY DRAFTING FOR HIM A GOOD MANY DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR HIS MEETING. EBAN HAS THE IMPRESSION THIS WILL BE A CONCRETE ELABORATION OF DAYAN'S "FUNCTIONAL PARTITION" IDEA, ABOUT WHICH HE HAS BEEN EXTREMELY VAGUE IN PUBLIC THIS FAR. HE UNDERSTANDS IT WILL BE ALSO QUITE SPECIFIC ON SUBJECT OF GOLAN AND SINAI.

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4. EBAN SAID HE HAD FOUND A NUMBER OF U.S. OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE WHITE HOUSE, "FASCINATED" BY BEGIN AND BUSY READING EVERYTHING THEY COULD FIND ABOUT HIM TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES HIM TICK. HE SAID HE HAS TOLD BEGIN AND DAYAN THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION REMAINS DETERMINED TO PUSH FURTHER TOWARDS GENEVA, AND IS NOT DISCOURAGED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS BUT RATHER COUNTING HEAVILY ON THE NEXT STAGE OF MEETINGS WITH THE VARIOUS FOREIGN MINISTERS.

5. DRAWING ON HIS LONG INVOLVEMENT IN PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS, EBAN SAID HE HIMSELF IS PESSIMISTIC THAT THE VERY WIDE GAPS WHICH NOW EXIST CAN BE CLOSED SUFFICIENTLY TO PERMIT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT TO BE ACHIEVED. NONETHELESS, HE AGREES IT IS IMPORTANT AND PROBABLY NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO TRY FOR A N OVERALL AGREEMENT DURING THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AHEAD, EVEN IF ONE SUBSEQUENTLY HAS TO FALL BACK TO MORE LIMITED NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.

6. EXPRESSING HIS DISMAY AT THE CURRENT STATE OF DISARRAY IN THE LABOR ALIGNMENT LEADERSHIP, AND

PARTICULARLY FORMER PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S ATTACKS
ON PERES, EBAN ADMITTED THAT HE WAS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT
LABOR'S CAPACITY TO MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION TO
BEGIN FOR QUITE SOME TIME TO COME. ON THE OTHER HAND,
HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY OF THE CURRENT TALK ABOUT
A SPLIT IN LABOR OR A RE-ALIGNMENT OF PARTIES WILL
AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, PERSONAL OPINION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Subject: ABBA EBAN'S VIEWS ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS SUMMARY: ABBA EBAN RETURNED FROM HIS SWING AROUND THE UNITED STATES GENERALLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS, (EBAN, ABBA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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